

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of providing a virtual file system including application data files to selected set-top terminals within a cable network, each of the selected set-top terminals having one or more client applications residing thereon, the method comprising:

creating a plurality of virtual streams in a single downstream service within a stream set where the virtual streams carry multicast addresses associated with the selected set-top terminals in the cable network and the single downstream service uses a single packet identifier (PID);

streaming application data files from a data carousel onto one or more of the virtual streams; and

delivering the stream set to the client application in accordance with delivery criteria set by an API residing on the set-top terminal.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the delivery criteria includes configuration of the virtual file system across the stream set.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the configuration comprises partitioning.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the delivery criteria include in-band or out-of-band transport criteria.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the delivery criteria include bandwidth availability on the cable network.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the delivery criteria include bit-rate.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the stream set carries operations information.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the operations information includes structured information describing the virtual file system.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the structured information includes an MPEG-2 PAT.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the structured information includes an MPEG-2 PMT.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the stream set is MPEG-2 compliant.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the API includes wrapper functions that are provided to the client application.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 12 wherein the wrapper functions include a synchronous function-call and response.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the application data files are streamed according to a file selection algorithm.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the file selection algorithm selects files in a virtual directory.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the file selection algorithm selects files that are applicable to time window.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the file selection algorithm limits selected files to those which are applicable to a sliding time window.

18-34. (Cancelled).